

29<sup>th</sup> November 1969. League Match v. Maidstone United (home)

## Wycombe W. 4, Maidstone 0

WELSH Amateur International winger Geoff Anthony, one of the season's hottest Isthmian League properties, warmed snow-bound Loakes Park by pouncing for two first half goals on Saturday.

His irrepressible style of attack was well suited to the adverse ground conditions—and far too much of a burden for struggling Maidstone to bear.

Combined with the equal menace of Wanderers' leading scorer, Tony Horseman, United had no means by which they could stop their hosts picking up two precious points in the title chase.

It also meant completion of the revenge mission Wycombe were on. Last season, Maidstone won a shock 3-2 victory for themselves at Loakes Park, and followed up with the second half of a League double in Kent.

After a 2-1 success at Maidstone earlier in November, Wanderers finished the job untroubled on Saturday.

It couldn't have been easier. The mid-day blizzard disrupted Maidstone's already arduous journey up from Kent to such an extent that Wanderers faced only nine men when the first whistle (delayed by several minutes) was blown.

Not until mid-half had the selected Maidstone eleven finally assembled on-field, and by then, Wycombe were a goal up and in far too strong a command to be caught.

John Delaney's late International call-up for the clash at Ninian Park necessitated a reshuffle of Wycombe's defence.

Also held up by the snow, was Keith Blunt, who became stranded South of the Thames,

after taking 90 minutes to get from his home at Dulwich to Putney Bridge.

The Horseman-Anthony partnership was soon to be seen, as Maidstone backpedalled onto defence to play for time.

Ironically it was not until the Kent side's tenth man was emerging from the players tunnel that Wycombe took the lead.

An elementary goal—Anthony outpaced 'keeper Trice and Miles to a ball running loose near the line in the 10th minute—it emphasised that once inside the area, any forward had the goal at his mercy.

Lack of ground footing, made it a near impossibility for goalkeepers to react quickly or with any certainty.

Maidstone bravely tried to keep pace, but their forwards

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WYCOMBE, WITHOUT five of their regular players, skated to an easy Isthmian League victory over Maidstone, who had only nine men on the field when left winger Anthony put the home side ahead in the first 10 minutes.

With the arrival of two latecomers, Maidstone defended stubbornly, but five minutes before the interval Anthony swept in a second for Wycombe.

In the second-half a Wycombe penalty converted by Horseman was followed by a fourth from Searle, who converted a pass from Baker to round off an impressive display at centre forward.

gave John Maskell little bother before the interval, and not much more after.

Even when Maidstone finally managed to face Wycombe 11 to 11, they looked unsafe. After 27 minutes, Ex-Waldstone defender, Dave Leonard, lashed the ball wildly over his own crossbar for a corner, to clear a searing cross from Geoff Anthony off the right wing.

Not to be deprived, Geoff was quick to follow up when Trice failed to hold Horseman's 40th minute pot-shot. The ball ran loose along the goalmouth, and in popped Wycombe's number 11 to make it 2-0.

Maidstone came more into the game once they had fully organised themselves during the break.

But, give or take an increasing number of raids, a revival was never on. And Tony Horseman totally bewildered the visitors' defence in the 67th minute, by running through them all before turning close to the line and floating over a high cross which Leonard handled to stop Searle from heading a certain goal.

His was only a delaying action however. Horseman calmly stroked the third goal from the spot.

Thirteen minutes later, Searle got his chance. Having scored in every game at Loakes Park since signing for the Wanderers, he proceeded to ensure the continuation of that proud record, by crashing in goal four after Barry Baker had swung play across field from the left.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; I. Rundle, C. Gale; V. Faulkner, K. Stephenson, D. Thomas; J. Lolley, B. Baker, K. Searle, A. Horseman, G. Anthony. Sub.: K. Samuels (not used).